

that people of different religious paths may learn to live side-by-side in peace and in harmony.

We ask Thy blessing upon these members of our Congress, the spiritual heirs of those who were so instrumental in bestowing upon the seed of Israel the restoration of their homeland. We pray that our President will succeed in his determined mission of building peace with security and of shining the bright light of freedom upon that benighted part of the world.

Grant that our President and Vice President and all our elected leaders will be blessed with clear vision to see and understand the future, and the courage and heart to make it a blessed and beautiful reality.

We pray in the words of Isaiah: May the spirit of the Lord rest upon us, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and strength, the spirit of knowledge and fear of the Lord. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. KLINE. Madam Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. KLINE. Madam Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. LANTOS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING DR. DAVID HALPERN, RABBI, FLATBUSH PARK JEWISH CENTER, BROOKLYN, NEW YORK

(Mr. LANTOS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to welcome to the Chamber

Rabbi David Halpern, who offered our opening prayer. I thank him for his thoughtful invocation.

Madam Speaker, Rabbi Halpern's accomplishments in his community of Flatbush, Brooklyn, have touched many lives across the Nation, and his work merits national recognition.

He leads the Flatbush Park Jewish Center. He is the Principal of the religious school there, which he helped found in 1952. He sought to create a place where religiously observant and religiously curious alike can feel comfortable; to advance the goal of Jewish learning; and to support Jewish causes around our country and around the globe. He also served as a Chaplain in the 71st Infantry of the 42nd Division of the National Guard for 10 years, and he sits on the New York board of Rabbis.

Madam Speaker, the esteem in which the Flatbush Park Jewish Center is held indicates that Rabbi Halpern's efforts have been an unqualified success. In recognition of his sense of compassion and leadership, he was chosen to speak on behalf of the community of Flatbush in the wake of the 9/11 tragedy.

Madam Speaker, I am delighted that he was able to share some of his wisdom and grace with us today. We admire his commitment to his faith and to his community.

MODERNIZING MEDICARE

(Mr. GINGREY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GINGREY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to address the House in support of the Medicare Modernization and Prescription Drug Act, which will be marked up in the Committee on Ways and Means and the Committee on Energy and Commerce this morning.

Modernizing Medicare with a prescription drug benefit puts a down payment on a healthy future for Americans. The House has an historic opportunity to bring up to date our health care system for millions of seniors.

The bill that will soon be before this House reflects the compassionate conservatism of my party. It is compassionate because it is providing much needed prescription drug coverage to Americans on a fixed income. It is conservative because prescription drugs often provide the ounce of prevention that beats the pound of cure. It is conservative because this legislation will serve the people today without breaking the bank tomorrow. It makes no financial sense to cover astronomically expensive surgery and not cover drugs that could have prevented that surgery.

We have promised a benefit to our seniors for years. This year, this year, Madam Speaker, it is time to deliver.

WELCOMING DR. DAVID HALPERN, RABBI, FLATBUSH PARK JEWISH CENTER, BROOKLYN, NEW YORK

(Mr. WEINER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WEINER. Madam Speaker, it is not usual that a relatively young man like myself can say that I have known someone well for nearly 20 years, but it is in that spirit that I welcome Rabbi David Halpern here this morning and thank him for his thoughtful words.

Brooklyn is full of distinguished spiritual leaders, and Rabbi Halpern stands out as a giant among them. Rabbi Halpern is a past President of the Rabbinical Board of Flatbush, where he served as Chairman of the Board's Membership Committee for 13 years. He is also a prominent member of other Rabbinical organizations and the Rabbinical Council of the United States.

He is widely respected and recognized for his intellect and wisdom, but, if there is one thing that distinguishes Rabbi Halpern, it is dedication not only to his faith, but in particular to his congregants and his community. More than 50 years ago, Rabbi Halpern became the first Rabbi of the Flatbush Park Jewish Center. And more than 50 years later, Rabbi Halpern is still there, and the community is stronger than ever.

Under his leadership, Flatbush Park has grown from a gathering of only 65 families in a rented store into a Modern Orthodox congregation of more than 500 family members. Today, there are thousands of people in Brooklyn and beyond whose spiritual lives were shaped by Rabbi Halpern.

As hard as I try to express what Rabbi Halpern means to this community, the ultimate testament is how many people joined him on his journey to Washington today. Dozens from his community, as well as distinguished Rabbis, are here in his honor, and it is my particular pleasure to welcome Rabbi Halpern's wife Sheila, his son Neil, his daughters Risa and Beth, his son-in-law Dennis and his granddaughter Lauren who are in Washington on this most important occasion.

In closing, on behalf of the United States House of Representatives and our grateful community, I would like to thank Rabbi Halpern for his eloquent words this morning and for his service to our whole country.

HONORING JACKSON TOBISKA, 2003 PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLAR

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mr. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Jackson Tobiska, a senior at Orange County's High School of the Arts, for being selected as a 2003 Presidential Scholar.